



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. James Cragin
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mr. Michael A. Russell

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MEETING OF JULY 28, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:02 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
John Hammargren
Carl Moore
Michael Russell

Absent

James Cragin

Others Present

William Sias, Deputy County Counsel
B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office
Jim Corbett, Executive Office
Dedie Ward, Commission Services
Sherry Scates, Commission Staff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren and unanimously carried, the Minutes of July 21, 2004 were approved with the following changes/corrections:

Page 3, 2nd paragraph, last sentence: Delete “retired”

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported on the following:

- Doris Reed, Auditor-Controller, wrote an article in the L.A. Times lamenting the loss of another child killed by senseless gun violence.
- She is working closely with Ramona Wilson, Children's Services Administrator II, Out of Home Care Evaluation Unit of DCFS; Richard Pate and Lenora Copeland, Regional Managers of the Community Care License Division, DCFS; and Doris Reed, Auditor-Controller regarding unsatisfactory conditions at group homes and praised their dedication and outstanding cooperation towards the mutual goal of correcting these deficiencies.
- She has been appointed Chair of the Peace Memorial Project. This project will use melted down guns that have been confiscated by L.A. Police and Sheriff Departments to make a peace memorial, which will include the names of those killed by guns from 1940 to the present and will be erected in Exposition Park.
- She recently attended the dedication of the new multi-million dollar state-of-the-art Steven Port Plaza Police Department in Hawthorne. This 100 man facility has: an underground firing range; a defensive driving training area; an area where officers can "decompress" so that they don't take stress home with them.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,035.40. Commissioner's noted that the catering bill for the last business meeting was rather high. Commissioner Russell volunteered to supply a Continental breakfast (juice, pastries, fruit) for future business meetings.

STAFF REPORT

Jim Corbett, Executive Office, reported that he and Chair Montano were working together on a scroll for Caffie Greene. He then introduced William Sias, County Counsel, who at the Commission's request, has been researching the Commission's proposed use of cameras on their inspection tours. Mr. Sias advised that he feels the Commissioners' use of cameras on their inspection tours could be a valuable tool for the Commission and he is checking on the legality of same. Following an in-depth discussion regarding group homes, Mr. Sias noted that he is a member of the Probation Commission and would be interested in reviewing the Commission's

unsatisfactory inspection reports. Staff was requested to fax the information to Mr. Sias.

CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

Chair Montano noted that a new Probation List had been received and that staff will make copies for the Commissioners.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Revisit Creative Learning – 23 #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren re-visited this facility on July 22nd and were accompanied by Doris Reed, Auditor-Controller.

Commissioners noted that since the Commission reported unacceptable conditions at this facility during their July 2004 inspection, there has been a significant improvement, but that more is needed to bring it up to acceptable standards.

Family Solutions, La Habra – 38 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on July 26th and gave it a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of concern: House rules and evacuation plans were not posted; first aid kit needs to be restocked; carpet needs replacing and Commissioner's were advised that new carpet has been ordered.

C&R/Masada Home/Dunsmuir House – 19 #1

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility on July 27th and gave it a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of concern: Several areas Commissioners needed to inspect were not accessible (medicine cabinet, water heater, refrigerator/freezer, etc.) because the person in charge had misplaced her keys; no group home license posted.

Project Six – 90 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on July 22nd and gave it a rating of **satisfactory+**. Area of concern: smoke detector needs batteries replaced.

Project Six – 91 #2

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on July 22nd and gave it a rating of **needs improvement**. Areas of concern: large amount of dirty clothes; the overall interior of home needs cleaning.

Project Six – 91 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on July 26th and gave it a rating of **satisfactory +** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To Be Presented and Placed On a Future Meeting Agenda)

Invite a representative from the Court Administrator's office to the Commission's next business meeting to discuss problems at courts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates
Staff, Commission Services